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services rendered by the state. This, at any rate, is the theory accepted by Mr. Dos Passos.

Looking into the future, the author foresees a continued extension of this form of taxation. Three times he confidently predicts that it will soon be in force in all the states of the Union. He recommends it as a most desirable substitute for "the odious tax on personal property"; and he is favorably inclined toward the adoption of progressive rates.

The proof-reading is atrocious in some places; but John Stuart Mill is so consistently referred to as "Mills" that one doubts whether the fault is all in the proof-reading. The reader is frequently tempted to wish that all lawyers would follow Mr. Stimson's excellent example and devote their leisure to literary pursuits, so that they might use good English when writing law.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAX WEST.

*Cours Élémentaire de Statistique Administrative.* Élaboration des Statistiques — Organisation des Bureaux de Statistique — Éléments de Démographie. Par le Docteur JACQUES BERTILLON, Chef des Travaux Statistiques de la Ville de Paris. Paris, Société d'Éditions Scientifiques, 1895. — 599 pp.

In 1889 the superior council of statistics in France expressed the wish that statistics might be made a part of the examination for entrance to certain administrative offices. The plan was approved by the minister of commerce, and was acted upon favorably by several bureaus, but there was no text-book. To fill the gap the volume before us was prepared, and it naturally corresponds as closely as possible to the program of subjects recommended by the council. It describes minutely the various bureaus of statistics in France; the various schedules used and the methods of filling them; the methods of tabulating the primary figures, of casting percentages, averages and totals, and of arranging, classifying, verifying and illustrating by graphical methods the results. The material is treated very elaborately, as befits the purpose of the book, but it is not done at all perfunctorily. Constant comparison is made with foreign bureaus, certain defects of the French system are sharply criticised, and many suggestions are given in regard to statistical method. There are also a definition of statistical science, a summary history of statistics, and a *résumé* of the chief facts in regard to population (*démographie*). It is, thus, far more than a mere cram-

book for candidates for the civil service. It will undoubtedly take a place in the literature of statistics, and will be useful to the general student as well as to the persons for whom it was primarily intended. It is less elaborate on the practical side than Levasseur's *La Population Française*, and on the theoretical, than von Mayr's *Statistik und Socialwissenschaft*; but in some respects it is keener than the former and more realistic than the latter of those valuable works.

The close student of statistics, if he can face (or ignore) the somewhat formidable mass of office schedules and administrative instructions, will, I think, find his profit in this book in two directions. It will enable him to verify the trustworthiness of French statistics so far as that can be done by a knowledge of the way they originate. This is no small gain; for such knowledge, though often desired, is generally inaccessible to the ordinary student. M. Bertillon's book is perhaps somewhat encyclopedic in this respect; but similar works for other countries, especially England and the United States, where there is such diversity of statistical material, would be very welcome. In the second place, by ignoring the administrative "rubbish," the student will be able, as noted above, to exhume a very suggestive treatise on statistical method.

Owing to the character and purpose of the book, critical comment on the strictly scientific parts of it seems out of place. M. Bertillon probably introduced as much "science" as he thought profitable or possible. Certain parts of the "*Démographie*," however, are decidedly defective. For instance, criminal statistics, for which France has been so famous, are disposed of in two pages. Again, the feeble birth-rate in France is clearly exposed and its consequences deplored, but no explanation is given for it.

M. Bertillon lays great stress upon *la vie normale*. This is that age where the absolute number of deaths is greatest, and it falls between 70 and 75 years. Leaving out the period of infancy, the number of deaths increases up to that age, and then, owing to the small number of survivors, falls off. We may term this age, M. Bertillon says, the normal length of life, as being the period which the greatest number just attain; it may be likened to a point on the target about which the shots group themselves in such a way as to convince us that a definite effort has been made to hit that particular center. All this seems to me dangerously analogous to Quetelet's *l'homme moyen*, a conception which M. Bertillon has already repudiated. The whole matter has been explained by King (*Life Contingencies*, p. 29) as concerned with that year of age in which the life is most likely to

fail. After age 1 the number of deaths is greatest during the year 73 to 74 ; and therefore the most probable year of death for all persons aged between 2 and 73 is the age 73 to 74. But this does not make it the normal lifetime. The figure has no such value or interest as M. Bertillon attributes to it. RICHMOND MAYO-SMITH.

*Cours d'Économie Politique.* Par VILFREDO PARETO. Tome Premier. Lausanne, F. Rouge, 1896. — 430 pp.

This work is comprehensive in its scope, since it is to include, when complete, a treatment of pure economics, of applied economics and of economic organization, embracing the evolution and the functions of industrial society, with a concluding book on distribution and consumption. The present volume discusses the first two of these subjects. The writer is catholic in his affiliations. Retaining concepts of classical origin, such as the notion that capital originates in consumers' goods used for the support of producers, he blends them with concepts derived from recent Austrian studies, such as the resolving of loans into exchanges of present goods for future goods.

The definitions show originality. The term utility, for example, has its ambiguities ; and Professor Pareto substitutes the word *ophélimité*, meaning capacity to satisfy any want, whether rational or irrational. One variety of capital, he argues, is the personal, consisting of laboring men. Savings, however, are not capital, but can be transmuted into it. It is in connection with this distinction that he makes the most interesting study in this volume.

The author says that savings are consumers' goods. They may be loaned to a consumer who will simply use them up, or they may be loaned to a producer who will make them over to laborers and so transmute them into capital. There is a rate of pay for the loan of savings ; but this does not depend entirely on the productivity of capital, for some savings are lent to consumers for direct use.

This conception of savings as not identical with capital might suggest the existence of two independent funds, continuing side by side. A reader might suppose that the author meant to imply that society possesses a stock of productive instruments, including tools, buildings, raw materials, *etc.*, and also a second stock of usable goods, held in storage and waiting to be dealt out to laborers. It is impossible that this should be his meaning, for no such storing of usable goods actually takes place. The consumable articles in mer-